

74-43957

1 August 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Associate Deputy Director for Management and Services

SUBJECT : Utilization of Agency Histories

REFERENCE : Memo to DCI from Chief, History Staff, dated 26 July 1974, Subject: Proposal for Wider Internal Use of Agency Histories

1. Whereas I am confident the Director would applaud any effort to maximize the value of histories on the shelf, I doubt the attached is ready for his approval because:

a. It does not give him a feel for the extent to which DCI histories or component histories are being utilized at the present time. I presume Walt is keeping some kind of book on this.

b. It does not allude to the history of the McCone years which, I would guess, Walt would still reserve for DCI approval given its sensitivity.

c. It does not note work under way on the Schlesinger period -- a topic that both the Director and Mr. Duckett have some interest in.

d. There is a wealth of information in the memorandum, other than that related to the action requested and the recommendation, which might give the casual reader in the months ahead the erroneous impression that the DCI has specifically approved that which Walt mentions need not involve the Director.

2. Suggest consideration be given to reworking the attached as a paper addressed to the Management Committee. If this were done, Walt Elder would have the opportunity to appear before the Committee, emphasize the utility of histories to selected line managers and others, and cause the membership to focus on the program. With respect to the delegation of authority to the Chief, History Staff, to approve the release of DCI histories, this of course is something that only Mr. Colby can

weigh in on, but it probably should be vented with the Committee. Having said all of the above, I would be happy to forward the attached to the Director but feel the History Staff would profit from Committee support and the advice which component historians can give their principals prior to a meeting on this topic.

B. C. Evans
Executive Secretary

Attachment

cc: Secretary/Management Committee

ES/BCE:sfc

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